

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 63

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Judge James Wendell McKenzie of Dayton.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Judge James Wendell McKenzie, a practitioner of the law who served his community ably as an attorney and a judge; and

WHEREAS, born on July 24, 1944, in Dayton, Judge McKenzie was the son of Oliver Wendell McKenzie and Lavada Phillips McKenzie; grandson of Benjamin Gordon McKenzie, who was known for his prominent role in the prosecution of John T. Scopes in the landmark 1925 Scopes Trial and for being the first Attorney General in the newly created 18th Judicial District; and nephew of James Gordon McKenzie, a special attorney with the United States Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Dayton City School, Judge Jim McKenzie attended Tennessee Military Institute, from which he graduated on June 3, 1962; he then graduated from Middle Tennessee State University on May 5, 1968, with a Bachelor of Science degree, and Cumberland School of Law at Samford University on August 21, 1971, with a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree; and

WHEREAS, hailing from a long line of lawyers, Judge McKenzie practiced law with his father from March 25, 1972, until August 25, 1998, when he was elected as the first Rhea County Family Court Judge; he also served as an attorney for Dayton and Rhea counties, a city judge for the City of Graysville and the Town of Spring City, and the city judge for the City of Dayton, in which position he served at the time of his passing; and

WHEREAS, throughout his years of service, he held memberships with various associations and commissions and sat on a number of boards, including the Tennessee Bar

Association, the National Association of Juvenile Court Judges and Tennessee General Sessions Judges, the Tennessee Trial Lawyers of America, the board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of the State of Tennessee, the Dayton Chamber of Commerce, the Rhea County Election Commission, and the Board of Directors for "We Care" Community Center; and

WHEREAS, he evinced his religious faith as an active member and trustee at First Baptist Church Dayton, and in his spare time, he enjoyed golfing, walking his dog, Jax, woodworking, and traveling with his wife; and

WHEREAS, Judge McKenzie was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Bobbie Williams McKenzie; their blessed union produced three children, Dana (Chris) Grissom, Brittany (Barry) West, and Wendy (Dr. Stephen) Deloach; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his wife and children, Judge McKenzie is survived by his grandchildren, Charles "Clint," Brooke, Ally, Haley, Taylor, and Keely, and a host of friends; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents and his stepsister, Bennie McKenzie Fleming; and

WHEREAS, Judge Jim McKenzie leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Judge James Wendell McKenzie, reflecting fondly

upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Judge McKenzie.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.